



Pulse of Wabash

Tastes on the Terrace set for Wednesdays in September at the Honeywell House

From 5 to 8 p.m. every Wednesday in September, the beautiful outdoor Honeywell House terrace at 720 N. Wabash St. will be open for dining. Weekly menus will be available on the Honeywell House Facebook page. In case of rain, indoor seating will be available. Reservations may be made by visiting www.honeywellarts.org or by calling 260-563-1102.

Charley Creek Gardens to present 'Lunch & Learn' series

The Charley Creek Gardens 2022 "Lunch & Learn" series will continue at 551 N. Miami St. with Landscape & Weed Identification on Wednesday, Sept. 21; Resist Technique Painting on Wednesday, Oct. 19; and Poinsettia Cards on Wednesday, Nov. 16. Admission is free, with reservations required due to limited seating. Reservations may be made by visiting www.honeywellarts.org or calling 260-563-1102.

Manchester Civic Band celebrates a half-century of making music with concerts

The Manchester Civic Band typically holds three concerts per year at the Peabody Retirement Community and Timbercrest Retirement Community. This year will be no different as performances at Peabody Retirement Community have been scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 21 and Dec. 7. This year's Timbercrest Retirement Community performances have been scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 28 and Dec. 14. They usually perform on a semi-trailer bed during the North Manchester Fun Fest parade and at Doud's Orchard Open House in Denver, Indiana. The band will also perform at "Light up the Town" on Friday, Dec. 2 at The Firehouse, 108 W. Main St., North Manchester, to celebrate North Manchester's Second Fridays on Main for December. Practices are open to all and held weekly at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the band room at Manchester

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Rep. Walorski car crash investigation results released

ECSD: Driver Zachery Potts was at fault; trying to pass on a two-lane road

By ROB BURGESS Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Friday, the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office (ECSD) released its final findings into last month's two-vehicle crash which killed Second District Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana,

and three others. The ECSD responded to the scene on Indiana 19 south of Elkhart County Road 44 at approximately 12:32 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3. All three occupants in one vehicle died as a result of their injuries, including Walorski, 58, of Elkhart; Zachery Potts, 27, of Mishawaka; and Emma Thomson, 28, of Washington, D.C. The sole occupant of the other vehicle, Edith Schmucker, 56, of Nap-

anee, was pronounced dead at the scene. "Our investigation has determined that the cause of the crash was driving left of center with a contributing factor of excessive speed," stated the ECSD. According to the ECSD, the report found that the at-fault vehicle was the Toyota RAV4 driven by Potts, which was traveling behind a flatbed truck before the crash. "The witness was traveling northbound behind

both the Toyota RAV4 and the unidentified truck," stated the ECSD. "The Toyota was observed slowing, as what was described as creating distance between the truck and the Toyota. The Toyota was then observed accelerating to a high rate of speed, closing the distance to the unidentified truck. As the Toyota neared the rear of the truck, it swerved into the southbound lane at which it collided with the

See WALORSKI, page A3

Farmers Market season finishing up this weekend

Season's final event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 24

By ROB BURGESS Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

If you haven't been to the Farmers Market this season in downtown Wabash, there is one opportunity left. Shoppers are invited to close out this year's Farmers Market by supporting their local farmers and independent retail businesses, said Downtown Wabash public relations and marketing coordinator Morgan Ellis. The market will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 24 in the Honeywell Center and Elks parking lot, 275 W. Market St. Ellis said the final market marks one year of

See MARKET, page A4

NMPL to hold 'Glow-in-the-Dark Night Market'

By ROB BURGESS Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) has announced the "Glow-in-the-Dark Night Market," a new event to their programming line-up, said adult department manager and marketing coordinator Jeanna Hann. The event will take place from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23 on the library lawn. "Absolutely everyone is welcome," said Hann. "No library card is needed." Hann said attendees will enjoy playing glow-in-the-dark cornhole and badminton, building with glow-in-the-dark Magna Tiles, mixing up a batch of glow-in-the-dark slime, painting rocks with glow-in-the-dark paint "and more fun glow-in-the-dark activities." Hann said local guitarist

See GLOW, page A4



Photos by JARED KEEVER / jkeever@chronicle-tribune.com

Participants of three-day bike ride across roughly 100 miles of Indiana trails approach an intersection in Northern Miami County on Thursday. The ride was organized by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

'We have huge opportunities'

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy makes local case for state, national bike trail projects

By JARED KEEVER Chronicle-Tribune Executive Editor

At trail crossings on county roads and in towns large and small across more than 100 miles through much of the state, you might have happened upon them. A small group of bike riders took to Indiana bike trails for three days this week to spread the message of an effort to better connect those trails, not just across the state, but across the nation. "We have huge opportunities," Mike Kuepper told a gathering of local and re-



Kevin Belanger, with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy speaks at a Wednesday evening dinner in Peru about state and national bike trail projects.

gional officials at a Wednesday dinner in downtown Peru. Kuepper, who is president

of the Nickel Plate Trail Association, had ridden earlier that day from Muncie to Peru. During the trip, he,

along with officials from the Indiana Department of

See TRAILS, page A2

Waldo and Steve Brandt Memorial Ride set for Sunday

The annual event will depart at noon from Brandt's Harley Davidson

By ROB BURGESS Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The familiar sight of dozens and dozens of motorcyclists making their way through the streets of Wabash will return once again this weekend. The annual Waldo and Steve Brandt Memorial Ride will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25, said Wabash Police Department (WPD) public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson.

"This ride is in remembrance of Waldo and Steve Brandt," said Benson. Benson said the ride will depart at noon from Brandt's Harley Davidson, 1400 Cass St. The motorcyclists will exit Brandt's Harley Davidson and turn southbound on Cass Street. Riders will travel south on Cass Street and turn east on Canal Street. The riders will turn south on Wabash Street and continue south on Indiana 13, where they will exit the city. "Motorists traveling through these areas during



Plain Dealer file photos

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In this 2018 file photo, riders prepare to begin that year's ride.

IN BRIEF

Heartland Career Center board to hold a regular monthly business meeting






The Heartland Career Center board of managers will hold the regular monthly business meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 in seminar room no. 7 at 79 S. 200 West, according to a press release.

Police search Bloomington's sewers for man believed armed

BLOOMINGTON — Officers searched the sewers beneath the city of Bloomington on Tuesday for a man believed to be armed with a





rifle who had entered the college town's sewer system, police said.
The Bloomington Police Department said no shots had been fired and that officers were searching the sewer system for a "barricaded man" in sewers beneath an area near the city's downtown.
Bloomington police began searching for the man about 12:30 p.m. EDT in the sewers, Capt. Ryan Pedigo told The Herald-Times, which reported that police said the man is wanted on warrants.
"We are working with Utilities to determine the underground sewer tunnels that a person could fit in," the Bloomington Police Department said in a tweet.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Sunny 93 / 60	 Thursday Chance Showers 70 / 45	 Friday Partly Cloudy 66 / 53	 Saturday Partly Cloudy 74 / 57	 Sunday Scattered T-storms 76 / 53
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 7:41 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:30 a.m.

 New 9/25	 First 10/2	 Full 10/9	 Last 10/17
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Detailed Local Outlook

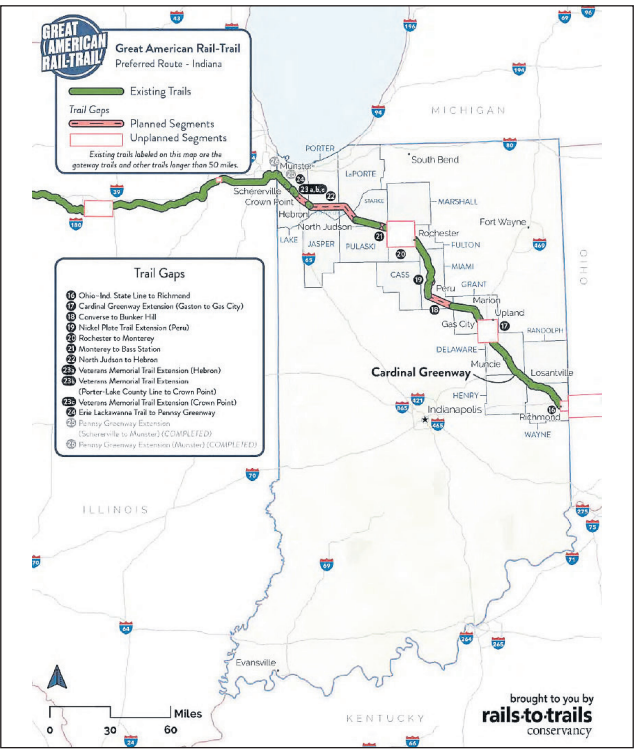
Today we will see sunny skies with a slight chance of showers, high of 93°, humidity of 50%. Southwest wind 6 to 13 mph. The heat index for today could reach up to 96°. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 60°. Northwest wind 6 to 10 mph.

TRAILS

From page A1

Natural Resources and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a national nonprofit organization, made stops in Marion's Hogin Park for a trail-side lunch and in Converse for an ice-cream break at the Big Dipper.
The day included miles on the Cardinal Greenway, the Sweetser Switch, Converse Junction and Nickel Plate trails.
During the ride, the group also took breaks to be shuttled along two gaps in what Kuepper and others hope will soon be a continuous trail between Richmond and Rochester.
They've made recent, significant progress.
Earlier this year, Kuepper's entirely volunteer organization secured a \$3.6 million grant – from the Indiana Next Level Trails program – to build a

spur that will connect Grissom Air Museum to McGrawsville, to the east. That trail will cross the Nickel Plate Trail, which already runs north and south between Kokomo and Rochester. That spur, once completed, will make up about half of what is needed to connect the Nickel Plate to Converse, and Kuepper says he is still working on acquiring the land needed to make that final push east.
Once the connection between the Nickel Plate and the Converse Junction Trail is made, there would be only one other gap – about 11 miles between Gaston and Gas City – before the two larger trails in the network – the Nickel Plate and Cardinal Greenway – are connected, linking Richmond to Rochester across more than 100 miles.
"We view connecting those two together as one of our highest priorities," Mark Becker, Program Manager with the Indiana DNR Next



A map of existing and planned trails across Indiana that will be part of the Great American Rail-Trail.



Riders approach Rochester near the end of a three-day bike ride organized to promote the Great American Rail Trail and other state-level bike trail projects.



The Great American Rail-Trail would connect Washington State to Washington D.C., crossing 12 states, including Indiana.

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those miles of uninterrupted trail grow, the trails themselves start attracting people from outside the immediate area.
Brandi Horton, Vice President of Communications for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, agrees.
Even at 50 miles, she said, volunteers and officials who manage the trails start to notice a draw. It increases, especially beyond the 100-mile mark, according to Horton.
"You start to see people seeking out those corridors as destinations," she said in a Friday interview.
Horton, too, had been on the three-day ride across Indiana. Starting in Richmond, the group rode to Muncie on Tuesday. They gathered again on Wednesday morning to make the ride between Muncie and Peru. On Thursday, they finished after a 25-mile ride from Peru ended with a lunch at The Dam Landing in Rochester.
Organized by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the ride was meant to highlight not only the effort to make those remaining connections in the immediate region, but to further connect Rochester to the Chicago area and Richmond to Ohio. The overall vision is to continue those connections as part of a national effort that Horton's organization calls the Great American Rail-Trail.
It's an ambitious project that would connect Washington State to Washington D.C. with uninterrupted trails across 3,700 miles and 12 states. Today the Conservancy touts more than 2,000 completed miles as they continue their work.
Kevin Belanger is the Conservancy's project manager for the effort. At Wednesday's stopover in Peru, he spoke to county and city officials who attended the dinner about estimated impacts.
As guests ate dinner on the

south bank of the Wabash River at McClure's Granary and Toll House, Belanger said that the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy estimates visitor spending at just shy of \$230 million annually across the national trail. In Indiana, he said, they estimate the completed trail would see 1.5 million visitors from outside the area annually, bringing in more than \$13 million per year.
It's a potential impact that others are already taking notice of.
Steven Ray, executive director at the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council, says that the town of Kirklin, in Clinton County, is already looking at building spurs to connect the town, not only to Frankfort, but to the Monon Trail, which currently connects Sheridan to Indianapolis through Westfield and Carmel, as well as connecting into the Nickel Plate Trail to the east in Kokomo.
But there are other benefits beyond that visitor-driven economic impact, Ray said. The trails are an added amenity that can make an area attractive to businesses looking for a location where their employees would want to live.
"It's not just about chasing smokestacks, but it's also making it a livable community," he said. "These trails can start to bring economic life back."
Kuepper said he has seen those benefits before, too.
A Peru businessman, he also once sat on the board at Dukes Hospital. In those days, before the Nickel Plate Trail was completed, the promise of it coming was a sizable recruiting tool.
"The idea that a rail trail was coming to Peru, actually encouraged doctors," he said.

From a regional perspective, Ray, whose organization works in Fulton, Cass, Miami, Howard, Clinton and Tipton counties, says that having trails running through them just makes sense.
"Our aspirations are to connect all six of our counties," he said Wednesday night.
To do it, the volunteer organizations and officials behind the efforts still have to negotiate with landowners along the corridor to buy land or gain access.
It can be a tough sell sometimes.
But Fred Kasten, a Pulaski County farmer, says he hopes folks can see the greater good.
Kasten doesn't have a trail running through his property, but he told the attendees at the Peru dinner that he remembers not being happy when the rail lines that used to carry his grain to market closed down.
He wasn't alone, but he said he adapted. He found other ways to move his crops and he even got out on the trail.
"And you know what, I loved it," he told the group.
Now, in his 80s, he's a regular trail rider who says he sees the benefits, not only for himself and the families he encounters out there, but also to the small, rural towns that now have people from outside regularly riding through.
"Every one of them people is carrying a wallet," he said. "I understand it does help the community."
For more information about the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Great American Rail-Trail visit www.rails-totrails.org.
Jared Keever, Chronicle-Tribune executive editor, may be reached by email at jkeever@chronicle-tribune.com.



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Obituaries

October is coming, prepare to be bold

She told me out of the blue that she adores me. I was there, in a chair, listening; she was standing by the grandfather clock. She didn’t sing it but she said it clearly. This should answer any remaining questions. But Mister Malaise and Madam Miasma are ever on our trail, skulking in woodlands and meadows, waylaying the vulnerable, requiring us to drink discouragement and despair, and they got me a few days ago, two weeks after mitral valve replacement, walking tall in Transitional Care, transitioning back to normal life when I was hit (in the time it takes to tell it) by abject weakness, dizziness, nausea, and had to be locked up in hospital and tubes put in my arms for blood and antibiotics, and then released in a weakened semi-invalid state. It’s a lousy feeling. I look out at Minneapolis and imagine it’s Odessa, which it is not. I worry the Swiss banks will fail. Water mains will burst. Bacon will be banned, leaving us with vegan substitute. The body wants to heal and it has felicitous intuitions how to go about doing it but meanwhile I ache and shuffle around like an old grampa and hike the hall-

Garrison Keillor



weren’t mentioned in detail, so I walk carefully. Life throws a beanball at your head and you dig in at the plate and swing at the slider. Look at Columbus, whom we honor in October, the month he landed in the New World. Some dishonor him because he came uninvited but there was plenty of uninvited migrating and mooching around in the 15th century. You took your chances. And it was a bold venture to sail out on the ocean blue with no idea of where you’re going. No wonder he was paranoid. He stood at the helm – it hurt to sit because he had horrible hemorrhoids – and guessed he was near India whereas he was closer to Indiana. Still, some of us admire his courage. October is a month that encourages courage. The languors of summer are finally

dispersed and the chill of reality in the air tells you to get to business. No wonder Brother Martin Luther on that October day in 1517 roused himself to nail his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg. Pounding nails into a door of any kind goes against a good German’s nature, but he did it, announcing that salvation is a gift of God’s grace, not available for purchase, for which he was outlawed but went on to lend his name to a major bunch of Prots. Whereas Pope Leo X is known for his diet of worms. It was in October 1781, that Washington and Lafayette whipped Cornwallis’s ass at Yorktown and brought the American Revolution to a successful end. It had gone on long enough, Washington decided. Time to dispose of the foe and get down to the real problem, which was figuring out what sort of government would take the place of the Crown. So Washington pretended to be laying siege to British-occupied New York City but in fact was rushing his troops south where he caught the redcoats by surprise and made short work of them. And Cornwallis surrendered. He didn’t claim the battle was fraudulent and that he was the true winner, nor did he slip out of Yorktown a day early to avoid having to hand over his sword. He handed it over. Washington did this despite his terrible dental problems. False teeth made of wood and ivory that chewed his gums as he chewed his beans and mutton. We do not know for a fact that the Father of Our Country did not assign one of his slaves to chew his food for him. Maybe he did, maybe he didn’t. But his bold move on Cornwallis did more to secure our independence than the Declaration of 1776 did. Anybody with a pen can declare independence; somebody has to get the job done. And so it comes down to you and me, friend, as to what needs doing in October. Leaves must be raked, storm windows hung, and we must listen to candidates and distinguish hogwash from common sense. And I must climb up from my clobbering and be ready when the bell rings for the next round. *Garrison Keillor is the author of two new books, “Lake Wobegon Virus” and “That Time of Year (a memoir).”*

Doris ‘Jean’ Weaver Smith

March 24, 1933 – Sept. 12, 2022

Doris “Jean” Weaver Smith was born on March 24, 1933, in Roanoke, VA, to Ruth Ethel Wenger Weaver and Aaron Lehman Weaver. Jean died on Sept. 12, 2022, exactly 6 months after her beloved husband, Edward Stanley Smith, passed away. Surviving are her children, Melea Smith, Michelle Brown and Bret Smith; nine grandchildren (Andrew, Aaron and Sarah Ross; Collin Brown; Dawn, Cassie, Bret Jr., Michelle and Patrick Smith); and 26 great-grandchildren. They fostered and adopted two children; and sister, Emily “Sue” Strickler. A private service will be held at the Timbercrest Senior Living Chapel. Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

John Benton Ridenour

May 30, 1962 – Sept. 16, 2022

John Benton Ridenour, 60, Silver Lake, died Sept. 16, 2022. Born May 30, 1962, John was the son of James and Kay (Meyer) Ridenour. John is survived by his wife, Shelley Ridenour; stepson, Travis (Amber) Powell; brother, Steve (Angie) Ridenour; uncles, Roger Meyer, and Ray Meyer. The family of John Ridenour has entrusted McKee Mortuary with care and final arrangements. Family and friends may call Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, with funeral services beginning at the conclusion of calling. Pastor Dennis Bollenbacher will officiate.

WALORSKI

From page A1

southbound Buick driven by Schmucker.” According to the ECS&D, evidence from the crash reconstruction, including detailed data from the airbag control module, often referred to as the “black box,” showed that the Toyota was traveling at a speed of around 82 miles per hour approximately 5 seconds before the crash. In addition, it showed that the vehicle’s motor was at idle speed, showing that the vehicle was “coasting,” with speed reducing to around 77 miles per hour, milliseconds before airbag deployment. “The airbag control module data also showed that the driver of the Toyota RAV4 steered the vehicle left just before the crash. The amount of steering input was consistent with the normal operation of the vehicle and was consistent with the eyewitness account,” stated ECS&D. “All cell phone information was examined from all occupants of both vehicles. There is no evidence or information that phones were being used before or during the crash. Inspections of the vehicles were conducted. The inspections and evidence at the scene showed no indication of mechanical failures. All of the evidence and information gathered is consistent with someone attempting to pass another vehicle on a two-lane roadway.”

Yakym releases first television ad

As of late last month, the list of candidates hoping to replace the late Walorski, R-Indiana, on the November special election ballot was officially set. On Friday, Aug. 19, the Indiana Democratic Party announced it would hold its formal caucus for the Second Congressional District special election on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at the Operating Engineers Local 150 in Lakeville. At that caucus, the previously nominated candidate Paul Steury was re-affirmed as the Democratic Party’s pick. After emerging from a field of over a dozen candidates, Rudolph “Rudy” Yakym III was selected Saturday, Aug. 20 to replace Walorski on the Republican ticket in the November general election. Gov. Eric J. Holcomb signed an executive order Tuesday, Aug. 9 to call a special election in the Second Congressional District to fill the vacancy left by the death of Walorski, said press secretary Erin Murphy. The special election will be held concurrently with the Nov. 8 general election. Walorski had already been set to face Steury and Libertarian candidate William E. Henry in that election. On the same day Holcomb announced the special election, Indiana Republican Party chairman Huffer officially called two caucuses of eligible precinct committee members to separately fill ballot vacancies for the upcoming special election and the upcoming general election. The Indiana Republican Party caucuses were Saturday, Aug. 20, at Grissom Middle School in Mishawaka. A total of 14 candidates submitted their names for consideration to replace Walorski on the Republican ticket including Dallas Barkman; Terry Harper III; Curtis Hill Jr.; Michael Hogberg; Mick Hoefflinger; Scott Huffman; Daniel Koors; Tiernan Kane; Marvin Layne; Michael Nidiffer; Curtis Nisly; Christy Stutzman; Scott Wise; and Yakym. Before the caucuses last weekend, Yakym – who had served as Walorski’s finance chair – received some significant endorsements from Walorski’s husband, Dean Swihart, and Walorski’s mother, Martha Walorski. Meanwhile, the leadership of the Lib-

ertarian Party of Indiana met on Sunday, Aug. 21 for an emergency meeting where they made the nomination and voted to place William E. Henry on the special election ballot. Henry is a U.S. Army veteran who earned a Bronze Star for his journalism work in Afghanistan. Henry will be placed alongside the other candidates on the ballot on Election Day. Henry ran in 2020 as Libertarian lieutenant governor alongside Donald Rainwater and the pair earned 11.4 percent of the statewide vote. On Tuesday, Sept. 20, Yakym for Indiana released their first television ad titled, “Jackie.” The ad will be seen on both broadcast and cable across Indiana’s 2nd Congressional District, according to a press release. The 30-second ad opens with Yakym introducing himself direct to camera as someone who worked for Walorski for years. “Yakym reflects on Walorski’s successful nine-year tenure in Washington, where she went to ‘shake things up’ and deliver results for Hoosier families and businesses,” stated the release. “Yakym goes on to say that ‘families are suffering right now and Washington isn’t listening’ to the concerns of Hoosiers across the district as President Biden, Nancy Pelosi and Washington Democrats lead our nation in the wrong direction. He then points out how Walorski showed him that ‘if you fight hard enough, stand for conservative values, and never give up, you can bring change.’ Yakym closes by committing to keeping this spirit, ‘Jackie’s spirit,’ alive to honor her legacy and serve Hoosiers in Washington as Indiana’s next Republican Congressman for the Second District.” Meanwhile, Steury had been scheduled to attend the First Friday celebrations on Sept. 2 in both Warsaw and Wabash.

Bill to rename St. Joseph VA Clinic in honor of Walorski passes Senate

On Thursday, Sept. 8, the Senate passed a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Mishawaka the “Jackie Walorski VA Clinic” with unanimous consent, according to Third District Rep. Jim Banks, R-Indiana. The legislation was sponsored by the entire Indiana delegation, passed the House unanimously on Friday, Aug. 12, and was sent to the desk of President Joe Biden. Walorski, who served on the House Ways and Means Committee, was first elected to represent Indiana’s 2nd Congressional District in 2012. She previously served three terms in the state’s legislature. Walorski was born in South Bend and lived near Elkhart. She and her husband were previously missionaries in Romania, where they established a foundation that provided food and medical supplies to impoverished children. She worked as a television news reporter in South Bend before her turn to politics. Walorski served on the House Committee on Veteran’s Affairs for two terms, “where she worked tirelessly to provide Hoosier veterans with quality care and advocated for the construction of a VA Clinic in Mishawaka,” said Banks. “I’d like to thank the entire Senate for honoring Rep. Walorski and ensuring the bills’ quick passage. As an overseas missionary, an advocate for veterans during her time in Congress, and a loving wife and daughter, Jackie spent her life serving others and this clinic will preserve her legacy. Amanda and I continue to pray for the Walorski family,” said Banks. *Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

PULSE

From page A1

High School, 1 Squire Drive, North Manchester.

Waypoint Wabash recovery home for women to hold grand opening

The open house of the new facility will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22 at 189 N. Wabash St. The public is invited to join the board, staff, donors, and volunteers of Waypoint as they celebrate Waypoint’s grand opening. Guests at the open house will have the opportunity to tour the home and learn more about Waypoint’s mission. After nearly three years of renovation, this historic home will soon provide safe and structured housing for women in recovery as they work to rebuild their lives. For more information, email waypointwabash@gmail.com or call 260-228-1454 or visit www.waypoint.com.

Salamonie Lake’s Riders Reunion set for Sept. 23 to 25

Get ready to saddle up from Friday, Sept. 23 to Sunday, Sept. 25 at Lost Bridge West Horseman’s Campground, 9214 W. Lost Bridge West Road, Andrews. Bring your own horses and a silent auction item to help the fundraiser, Power the Camp. While bringing a horse is not mandatory to attend the event, horse enthusiasts are invited to bring their horses to camp the weekend or enjoy a day ride. There are no horse rentals at Salamonie Lake. Property entrance fees apply of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle. For trail riders, a horse tag is required and available for purchase at the entrance gate for a cost of \$5 daily or \$20 annual. Camp reservations may be visiting www.camp.in.gov, <https://indianastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>, <https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake> or dnr.IN.gov.

Local arts group’s 26th annual fall musical to be performed Sept. 23 to 25

Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will present their 26th fall musical, “Guys and Dolls,” from Friday, Sept. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase by calling 260-563-1102 or visiting honeywellarts.org. For more information, email wabashtheater@gmail.com.

Wabash High School plans homecoming celebrations

Once again, Wabash High School (WHS) has planned their homecoming celebrations, this time for Friday, Sept. 23. The annual WHS homecoming parade has been scheduled for that day, as well, at 4:30 p.m. The parade will start and end at the school. Just like last year, the parade route will

begin at WHS at 580 N. Miami St., turn north on North Miami Street, turn east on West Harrison Avenue, turn north on North Wabash Street, turn west on Euclid Street, turn south on Alber Street and then return to WHS.

MSD plans proposed new high school referendum informational meetings

MSD has scheduled several informational meetings on the referendum including at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 at Southwood Jr./Sr. High School, 564 Indiana 124; 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Lagro Community Building, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5 at Southwood Jr./Sr. High School; and 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 at Northfield Jr./Sr. High School. For more information, call 260-563-8050 or visit msdwc.org/referendum or msdwc.org/connect.

Wildflower Create & Take Trolley Tour tickets are on sale

Visit Wabash County has announced the release of the Wildflower Create & Take Trolley Tour, a new interactive trolley tour highlighting three wildflower farms in Wabash County. Spend the morning exploring three wildflower farms in Wabash County and creating keepsakes from each stop. The Wildflower Create & Take Trolley Tour will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. This all-inclusive tour is limited to 34 people and the cost per ticket is \$38. For more information, visit VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours.

North Manchester Belles and Beaus Square Dance Club to celebrate 50 years

The North Manchester Belles and Beaus Square Dance Club are celebrating 50 years of existence this year with dances from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month through December, and from February through June – at Scout Hall, 108 W. 7th St., North Manchester. Once again, lessons are planned for this fall, beginning Sunday, Sept. 25. They will be held at the Scout Hall in North Manchester from 4 to 6 p.m. and will be open for beginners for three weeks. For more information, call 260-982-2814.

Ladies Golf Association plans 12th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Golf Scramble

The Honeywell Golf Course and the Ladies Golf Association (LGA) are hosting the 12th annual Honeywell Breast Cancer Awareness Scramble for men and women on Sunday, Sept. 25. The event begins with a 1 p.m. shotgun start and concludes with dinner, prizes and a raffle draw. The proceeds benefit the 85 HOPE Medical Clinic Mammogram Fund which offers free 3-D mammograms to any Wabash County woman ages 40 to 64 during October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Men and women, begin-

ners and experienced golfers are welcomed. The \$60 player fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, snacks, dinner, a gift bag and prizes. A raffle of donated items has also been planned. To register, call 260-563-8663 or mail to 3360 W. Division Road, Wabash, IN 46992. In addition, \$75 hole sponsorships from businesses, organizations and individuals “would be greatly appreciated.” Players, hole sponsors and raffle donors must make payments by Tuesday, Sept. 20. Players are asked to make their foursomes.

Manchester University announces the fall Value, Ideas and the Arts series

Manchester University offers more than a dozen programs in its Value, Ideas the Arts (VIA) series for Fall 2022. Presentations are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus unless otherwise noted. Sept. 26, Manchester kicks off a series of programs on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights. Oct. 3, You Yes You! Project Founder and Executive Director Ericka Sanders will discuss her non-profit organization designed to encourage incarcerated men to stay connected to their children. Oct. 10, a panel of Manchester seniors in “What I Would Tell My First-Year Self?” will reflect on their college experience. Oct. 24 is the second part of the Sustainable Development Goal Series. Oct. 31 is “Astrobiology, Theology and the Future of Faith” with Biblical scholar William Brown. Nov. 7 is “We Feel, Therefore We Learn” by Manchester faculty member Tim McKenna-Buchanan, who will share his journey of becoming a foster and adoptive parent and trauma-informed professor. The play, “We Own This Now,” is 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10 in Cordier. Nov. 14, Kimberly Kelly, associate professor of sociology and director of gender studies at Mississippi State University, will speak about “After Roe v. Wade: What Mississippi Means for America.” Nov. 28, Denise Kettering-Lane, associate professor of Brethren studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, will speak about the Church of the Brethren tradition at Manchester. Dec. 5 features a student forum on “Building a Campus Food Security and Biodiversity Action Plan,” where students in the Principles of Biology class will present a vision for improving food security and biodiversity on the North Manchester campus. Check <https://www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA> for additional programs or to see if a particular program will be live-streamed, which is usually finalized within a week of a program.

Wabash County Democratic Party to host town hall for Joe Swisher

The Wabash County Democratic Party will host a town hall later this month for Joe Swisher, their candidate in the District 17 State Senate race. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26 at Wings Etc., 1439 N. Cass St. In addition to Swisher, other candidates will be introduced.

Salamonie Lake to host Weed Wrangle on Saturday, Sept. 24

STAFF REPORT

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, promoting volunteerism and environmental stewardship, the public is invited to participate in the Upper Wabash Invasives Network (UWIN) Weed Wrangle, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

The event is set to last from 10 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Lake's Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews.

"During the Weed Wrangle workshop, we will help identify invasive plants and teach important techniques of removal of select species," said Rody. "Did you know native plants feed native insects, ultimately impacting all other Indiana wildlife? This is one reason we wrangle invasive plants."

Rody said volunteers should wear long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes. Volunteers should bring work gloves, wide-brimmed hats, sunscreen, bug spray and a refillable water bottle.

"If you have tools, feel free to bring them," said Rody. "No chainsaws."

The first 50 volunteers to sign up for advance registration and attend and work at the session will receive a UWIN T-shirt.

"UWIN works to educate the public about native species and combating invasive plant



Provided photo

Mary Lou Watkins participates in the Upper Wabash Invasives Network (UWIN) Weed Wrangle in conjunction with National Public Lands Day.

species. UWIN holds several public workshops throughout the year, and works with landowners in Miami, Wabash and Huntington counties," said Rody.

To register, call 260-468-2127.

MARKET

From page A1

operations led by market and downtown coordinator Carly Hawkins.

"The handmade, home-made and homegrown market vendors take pride in their works and fresh produce," said Ellis.

RiverRidge Farms owner Nathan Fingerle, of Roann, said this year's market "was one of their best in all 15 years of being a home-grown vendor at the market."

"The 2022 Wabash Farmers Market season has been one of, if not the best seasons ever as a produce vendor," Fingerle said. "Thanks to everyone for a successful year and to all who support local small family farms."

The 2022 Downtown Wabash Farmers Market was sponsored by Grow Wabash County, Women's Entrepreneurial Opportunity Center



Provided photo

The market will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 24 in the Honeywell Center and Elks parking lot, 275 W. Market St.

(WEOC), Julie Dickey and Renewal By Andersen.

For more information about the Downtown Wabash Farmers Market, visit DowntownWabash.org or follow along on Facebook or Instagram.

Ellis said last year's market closed "another successful season" with one last market on Sept. 25, 2021. Ellis said the Down-

town Wabash Farmers Market welcomed more than 35 different vendors throughout the 2021 season.

To register for this year's market, visit DowntownWabash.org/vendor, email carly@downtownwabash.org or call 260-563-0975.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

GLOW

From page A1

Randy Ragan will be on hand, "providing chill musical vibes for all to enjoy."

"The Night Market will be a Glow In the Dark extravaganza that we think the whole community will love," said programming coordinator Molly Magnus.

NMPL will serve free hot popcorn and Chillz Delights will be selling delicious donuts.

Hann said there will also be "fun shopping opportunities."

"Attendees will be able to browse a fun selection of book art, hand-knitted hats, unique bookends, gently-used books, fall crafts and the special Night Market glow-in-the-dark T-shirts," said Hann.

Hann said items sold will benefit Friends of the Library and support library programming.

"We're so excited to debut a fun, nighttime event for patrons of all ages," said children's department manager Sarah Morbitzer. "There will be plenty of glow-in-the-dark games to play, crafts to make, delicious doughnuts from



Provided photo

Little crafters have donated items to be sold at the Night Market, like hot pads.

Chillz to eat, beautiful handmade items and gently used books to buy and live music to listen to. Truly something for everyone. We've never had an event quite like this before and we can not wait for everyone to see all the fun glowing activities we have planned. Bring the whole

family. All activities are free and no purchase is necessary to enjoy an evening of glowing fun."

For more information, visit www.nman.lib.in.us.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainealer.com.



Plain Dealer file photo

The ride was founded in memory of Brandt's Harley Davidson founder Waldo Brandt and his son, Steve, who died in 1988 and 2010, respectively.

MEMORIAL

From page A1

this time should expect long delays at intersections," said Benson.

The annual event draws

hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts to Wabash each year.

The ride was founded in memory of Brandt's Harley Davidson founder Waldo Brandt and his son, Steve, who died in 1988 and 2010, respectively.

But the ride is now a staple for riders from all around central and northeast Indiana.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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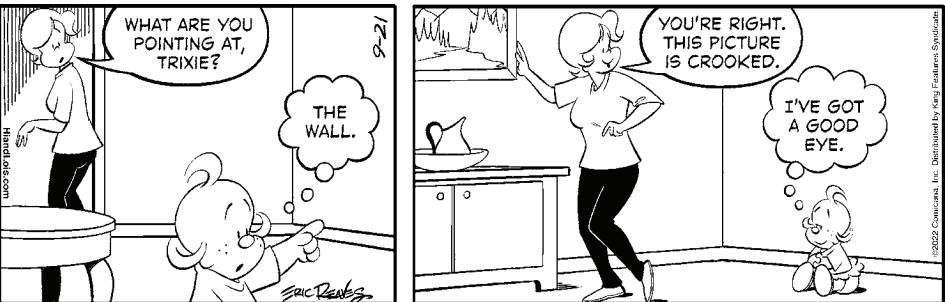
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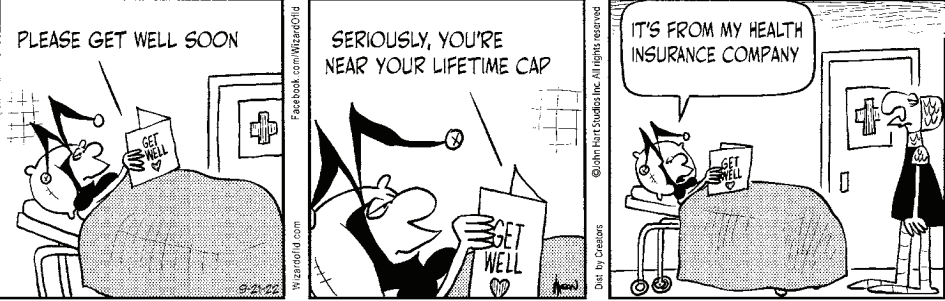
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WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



SUDOKU

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

Today's solution

9	7	8	2	1	7	6	9
8	1	6	7	9	5	8	2
2	9	2	8	6	9	1	8
6	2	1	9	8	7	9	8
2	9	7	1	9	2	8	7
9	8	2	8	6	9	7	1
7	2	9	6	1	8	2	9
8	6	9	2	2	7	1	8
1	8	2	7	9	8	6	2

	2		5				
8					5		3
		7		9	6		
	4					6	
		8	2	1			
	3				1		
		1	6		2		
7		3					8
		2		7		4	

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 "The proof ___ the pudding"
- 5 Mouse catchers
- 9 Percussion instrument
- 13 Grand home
- 15 Parade spoiler
- 16 Days of __; long-ago times
- 17 Exceedingly
- 18 James Bond's specialty
- 20 Word with lift or mask
- 21 Tupac Shakur's music
- 23 Red wine
- 24 Damp
- 26 Actress
- 27 Applies a coat of color
- 29 ___ of; lacking
- 32 Ironically
- 33 Terrify
- 35 ___ goo gai pan; Chinese dish
- 37 "Hamlet" or "Pygmalion"
- 38 Motel features
- 39 ___ on; goad
- 40 Command to Fido
- 41 Gladden
- 42 Sphere of the world
- 43 Wally Cleaver's brother
- 45 Pie bottoms
- 46 "___ air mail"; old postal term
- 47 Portals
- 48 Moral values
- 51 ___ tree; in a pickle
- 52 Covered with frost
- 55 Like diseases with cures
- 58 Gallant
- 60 Sour
- 61 Hammer's target
- 62 Beauty shop
- 63 Unit of farmland
- 64 Touches lightly
- 65 Some wines

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
17										18			
20					21	22				23			
		24	25							26			
27	28								29			30	31
32						33	34					35	36
37						38						39	
40					41							42	
	43		44							45			
			46							47			
48	49	50								51		52	53
55						56	57			58	59		
60						61				62			
63						64							

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/21/22

DOWN

- 1 Late radio/TV host Don
- 2 Vaccine developer
- 3 Frighten; bully
- 4 And not
- 5 Inched along
- 6 Community coll. degrees
- 7 ___ over; topple
- 8 Popular candy bar
- 9 Energetic person
- 10 Lion's cry
- 11 Egg on
- 12 Come together
- 14 Once-in-a-blue-moon event
- 19 Shade of green
- 22 Mule's father
- 25 Roy Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
- 27 Boston orchestra
- 28 Wing it
- 29 Valley
- 30 Out of the question
- 31 Mistrust
- 33 Fly high

Today's solution

S	O	E	H		S	D	V	L		E	B	C	V
N	O	T	S		T	I	V	N		L	A	V	L
E	T	B	O	N		E	T	B		V	L	A	V
A	C	I		V	D	N		S	C	I	H	L	E
S	L	S	H	O				R	E	A	V	E	B
E	B	O	T	G				E	L	V	E	L	I
H	N	D	S		S	T	O	O		A	V	T	D
O	O	W		E	H	V	C	S		A	T	T	O
D	I	O	L	E	D			S	I	N	I	V	D
L	E	B	V	T	O			D	V	H	I	K	S
E	B	V	N	O	I	D	S	E		V	B	L	T
E	B	O	A		N	I	V	H		R	O	N	V
W	N	D			S	L	V	O				N	I

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9/21/22

- 34 Portable bed
- 36 Mineral deposits
- 38 Agreeable
- 39 Insult
- 41 Boot out
- 42 Responses to a conny joke
- 44 Fly a plane
- 45 Police officer
- 47 Knights' fights
- 48 Singer ___ James
- 49 ___ II; Gillette razor
- 50 Hamburg man
- 53 Oaf
- 54 Hankerings
- 56 Lamb's cry
- 57 Back talk
- 59 Boatman's item

Lucky employee now sits on the fence

DEAR AMY: For years I have wanted to switch companies for a different position. The company I was interested in approached me out of the blue and offered me a great job. After several meetings and detailing all the particulars I

Amy Dickinson
Ask Amy



gave notice to my current employer and while they were extremely disappointed, they wished me well. Once I was scheduled to begin the new position, I froze and was overcome with anxiety. Most of it was the regret of hurting the employers who had been very nice to me over the years, as well as the fear of having to learn all different systems, which felt overwhelming at the time.

I told the new company I needed to put this new start date off a couple of months (which they were fine with) and told my current employers I would stay while I thought things through. They were thrilled and have done everything to make my no-job better. I am beyond grateful to both companies for handling this so well, and I am happy to not be forced to choose until I am ready.

I am now overcome with shame, embarrassment and just feel like a dope. Eventually I will want to try out this new position, but I fear that when I am ready it is going to be even harder to leave the Old Company since they are now pulling out all the stops to make me happy! I have dug an even deeper hole. If I had just left when

I got the offer, I'd be OK by now.

I feel so foolish for not seizing a great opportunity and at the same time want to be fair to both, but I'm not sure how to make the move later when I'm having such a hard time now? – Mortified

DEAR MORTIFIED: If New Company had refused your request to delay your start time, you'd have made your choice and adjusted to all the frightening changes by now.

The generous options these companies have allowed you to pursue seem to have paralyzed you. Now you must make a decision. I can't tell you what decision to make, but you have to make one. The longer you delay, the more like a dope you will feel.

If you leave, you may regret it. If you stay, you might also have regrets.

It's OK to stumble a bit. It's OK to pursue an opportunity but then change your mind.

But you've turned what should be a transactional experience into an emotionally fraught experience.

Decide what is best for you – not these two employers.

And make your choice, notify them, and commit to the choice you've made. If you end up declining to move to New Company, thank them sincerely for their patience and tell them that Old Company has made staying where you are the best choice for you.

DEAR AMY: I have a brother and sister-in-law who just don't get it.

They brag incessantly about their two brilliant, gorgeous, talented granddaughters.

That alone would be annoying but at the same time they

are critical of my grandchildren, who are, of course, brilliant, gorgeous, and talented.

The last time we spoke, my sister-in-law actually said that her granddaughter is a genius.

I could only comment that this was spoken as a true grandmother. But she asserted that no – this was true.

I am fortunate to have many friends who have grandchildren. Occasionally we relate a story about them that makes us proud – but we don't gloat or brag.

Am I just lucky, or is bragging the norm? – Anonymous

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Some people seem to only relate to others through asserting superiority. The ubiquity of social media – where people inflate their triumphs and occasionally overshare about their tragedies – has also inflated this tendency. So yes – bragging has become the norm.

The good news is that this makes us "normies" all the more special! My daughter once wrote a passionate essay in defense of being "average," and I've never been prouder (but now – I'm bragging!).

Your brother and SIL get to brag about their grands, but they may not critique yours. You should nip that in the bud. **DEAR AMY:** You gave a helpful response to "Buried," who was trying to cope with a paper-hoarding spouse. Setting up online accounts will help to reduce paper. They should also invest in a scanner. Scanned documents can pile up virtually, and will not contribute to the paper clutter. – Scanned That

DEAR SCANNED: Great suggestion. Thank you.

HOROSCOPE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Remain in the loop by keeping in touch with your network of friends and business acquaintances. Because you are likely to be alert to helpful opportunities, you may be able to help a partner make a profitable decision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Notice which of your opinions reflect those of your friends just so you will fit in. It's great to display ample team spirit but doing your own thinking for yourself. Pick up the torch and carry on with a project.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) To win a competition, you may need to do more and daydream less. Be understanding if someone doesn't return your call because there might be a good reason. Use your own barometer to measure success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Want to receive? Try asking. This might be an auspicious time to discuss financial plans that require the cooperation of a partner or loved one. The days are growing shorter but there could be plenty of time for joint efforts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your generosity of spirit counts in your favor. You may be willing to use strong tactics to handle investments and get ahead on the job. This could be a good time to mend fences or to curry favor with some influential people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Powerful friends or allies may champion your side during key debates. Go ahead and speak your mind as you can probably get a key point across concisely. You could be in the mood for love, but today is a day for friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Assess your efforts clearly and honestly but don't be overly critical if you've done your best. Put the finishing touches on work projects or tackle tasks that require someone by your side. You may not realize how popular you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) An exchange of ideas requires a spirit of give and take. What you don't know, someone else can supply. Ask for someone's advice or gather educated opinions before you make a decision about sizable expenditures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Pick up the tab. A paycheck can show how much the boss values your time and expertise, but your knowledge and support can be priceless to loved ones. Any apologies that are offered should be accepted wholeheartedly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your footprints create a path that others can follow. Even if you sometimes don't value your own efforts, your passion for success can be an inspiration to someone else. Take pride in being savvy about the ways of the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be overly humble or think that your accomplishments are not noticed. An optimistic companion can raise your spirits and may remind you that a problem is merely a pebble in the big scheme of things.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Remain calm and deftly handle unexpected reactions or unforeseen changes. Ask for advice and support from a loved one with more experience. Remain poised to deal with emerging situations that challenge your patience.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaineader.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

EDITORIAL

A national 15-week abortion ban would be a nightmare

When the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade in June, striking down a constitutionally guaranteed right to abortion and directing decisions on abortion to be made by the states, Republican lawmakers hailed that approach. But no one – neither abortion rights supporters nor abortion opponents – expected GOP members of Congress to stop the assault on reproductive rights, no matter what they said.

And now they have gone further. As if the chaos of a post-Roe nation of restrictions varying from state to state weren't grim enough, now we have the makings of a nightmare: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) on Tuesday introduced a nationwide 15-week abortion ban known as the Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act. This is a very restrictive abortion ban that is based on the premise that fetuses can feel pain at 15 weeks – a belief soundly rejected by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Graham has done voters a favor, in a sense, by starkly illuminating the stakes in the upcoming midterm elections. This bill will get a vote in Congress if Republicans win back control of the House and Senate, he vowed.

Not only does this give lie to the Republican talking point praising the court for turning abortion laws over to the states, it defies what most voters support. In a Pew poll conducted before the June 24 decision in Dobbs vs. Women's Health Organization that overturned Roe, most U.S. adults said abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

A later Pew poll showed that most Americans (57 percent)

disagreed with the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs and that 62 percent believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Think about that: If a similar percentage of senators agreed with Americans, that would be enough votes to break the Senate filibuster and pass the Women's Health Protection Act, codifying a nationwide right to abortion.

Graham's bill is not a compromise between what abortion opponents want and what a majority of Americans said they support. How does he square his proposal for a national 15-week ban after saying in May that it was fair to return the decision-making to the states? Not very well. Graham said that because Democrats had introduced a bill codifying a national right to abortion (which the Senate rejected), he was going to introduce a counter-proposal showing where Republicans stand. That's ridiculous. Democratic lawmakers never embraced the Dobbs decision as Republicans did.

Most abortions are performed during the first trimester – which ends after 12 weeks of gestation. This bill would disallow abortions just three weeks into the second trimester and long before viability (starting at roughly at 23 to 24 weeks), which was the cut-off for abortions under Roe except under special circumstances. And as more states ban abortion even earlier in a pregnancy, it will force people to travel farther to get an abortion in another state. In some cases, what would have been a first-trimester abortion when Roe was in place now becomes a second-trimester abortion due solely to circumstances.

The bill allows for exceptions for rape and for incest against minors (provided they've met

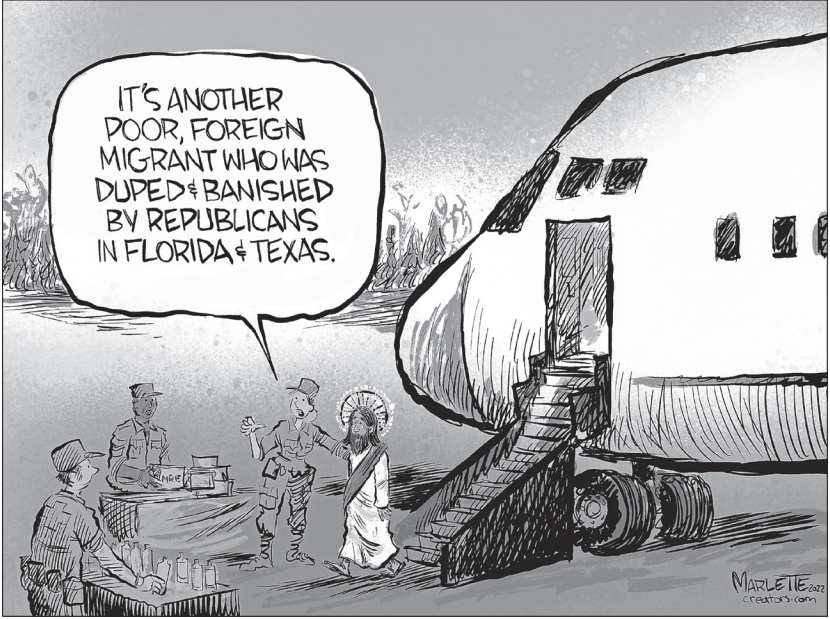
the requirements for counseling and legal reporting) and in cases when the pregnant person's life is endangered.

But we've seen how little those exceptions truly protect pregnant individuals in states with severe restrictions. There are already harrowing stories of people with ectopic pregnancies, severe fetal abnormalities and infections being forced to continue pregnancies that endanger their lives because doctors and hospital administrators are too scared to decide when a medical or a health emergency overrides a law. A ban like this only threatens the ability of pregnant people to access the healthcare they need.

This bill doesn't supersede the even more restrictive or total abortion bans in effect in more than a dozen states so far. But it would override the more permissive laws that allow abortions roughly up to viability, or beyond, in states such as California, Washington, Oregon, New York and Illinois. And that's what Graham and abortion opponents really want – a country that essentially refuses pregnant people the right to control their own bodies and lives.

This bill faces hurdles to become a law. If Republicans win a majority in Congress, they'd still need 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster in the Senate – and even more to override a veto by President Biden. But no one who cares about a person's right to bodily autonomy should take for granted the danger this bill presents to the American public. It's imperative that on Nov. 8, voters in every state remember this as they choose their next representatives in Congress.

This editorial was first published in the Los Angeles Times.



Big day in Indiana land conservation benefits all

Indiana just experienced its biggest day ever for land conservation.

I'll forgive readers if they didn't know that. But I'll also assure them that they and their fellow Hoosiers will benefit from that day – literally – forever.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, the Next Level Conservation Trust Project Committee met and decided how to distribute more than \$23 million of the \$25 million the State of Indiana set aside for land conservation in the biannual budget passed

last year. With the help of those funds, portions of the Indiana landscape will be protected in perpetuity by land trusts across the state.

To the state government's credit, when it put out requests for proposals for these funds, it told land protection groups to "dream big." And we did. The conservation community identified swaths of an ancient forest, vibrant wetlands, unique geological formations, endangered species' habitat and other important natural places, many that we thought we might never have the resources to purchase and protect. The requests totaled more than \$30 million.

This doesn't mean that

organizations simply found ways to spend money. The Next Level Conservation Trust provides up to three-to-one matching grants, which means that every organization that requested funds also committed to raising money from donors.

The result is that soon more money than ever will be used to purchase significant parcels of Indiana's natural areas and place them into protective care forever. Hoosiers will have opportunities to enjoy pristine natural areas, experience Indiana's native flora and fauna, and also to benefit from improved water and air quality well beyond those properties.

The funding was distributed from among divisions of the state's Department of Natural Resources adding to parks, forests, fish and wildlife areas and nature preserves as well as county and local parks and multiple land trusts from across the state. This is a big deal because these latter properties will be open to the public but their ongoing care will not require tax dollars.

For example, the Central Indiana Land Trust is using its \$3.1 million to help purchase and protect land just west of Greencastle in Putnam County. A 570-acre site known as Fern Station, this property has been on our wish list for more than a decade because it represents classic Indiana forestland and serves as home to several rare

and endangered species. It sits virtually undisturbed now – with only a single gravel road cutting through it – but, unable to find a buyer, the landowner had been considering dividing the land into parcels for sale.

Without the help of state funds, we might never have been able to raise enough money to protect the property, which will represent the largest single land purchase in our history. And, because it sits near another protected property – the Fern Cliff Nature Preserve – it helps to increase the critical mass of protected land in that area.

With the funds from the Next Level Conservation Trust, similar transactions will take place across the state, bringing thousands of acres of land under protection. This is a critical step at a time when we lag well behind other states in terms of protected land and continue to lose thousands of acres to development every year.

We applaud Indiana's leaders for making these funds available for investment in the future of Indiana's natural places, and we thank the generous land preservation supporters across the state for providing the matching funds needed to make these purchases possible. Together, we are all working to preserve the best of Indiana's natural legacy.

Cliff Chapman is the executive director of the Central Indiana Land Trust.

LETTERS

Citizens' response to the recent open letter

Each election cycle, many of us go to the polls and select who we think best represents the interests and goals of our communities, our county and our school district, unless you are one of the 10 or so Indiana school districts that have appointed boards. Sometimes our candidate wins; sometimes they don't. Residents living in the district with an open seat can throw their hat in the ring to represent their district if they aren't happy with the way they are being represented. Many of us are dismayed that the signors of the "joint open letter" appear to not respect the election process and the decisions of the elected officials of our county commission, county council, town boards and the MSD and Manchester Community Schools (MCS) boards.

Their letter states that more than 200 citizens submitted over 1,000 ideas for growth. We attended two of the virtual sessions. For the publicity these virtual sessions received, "200 attendees" is not a good representation of Wabash County. In our opinion Grow Wabash County, the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) and Manchester University have become an echo chamber on the consolidation issue. The more they repeat it, the more they believe it is the answer to reversing the population decline in Wabash County. The more they repeat it, the more well-meaning intelligent, but not necessarily engaged, community members begin to believe that maybe our schools are failing us. The open letter asks that our elected officials convene a diverse group of Wabash County leaders and citizens to review the options. Respectfully, that is what we elected the county officials and school board members to do. It would be safe to assume any further review spearheaded by Grow Wabash County and CFWC would have a predetermined goal of bringing pressure upon MSD to consolidate.

Did you know that only 20 out of Indiana's 92 counties have a single school district? Of those counties with one school district, there are only four counties showing population growth and three of those are near urban sprawl, including New Albany, Evansville and Boonville. In square miles, Wabash County is larger than any of the other counties with a single district and the 31st largest statewide. Only three of the districts had positive net public student transfers and two of those were less than 15 and the third was 57. MSD, even excluding White's, has a positive net public school transfer. This tells us that parents do not want a single school district and that parents are choosing MSD for their children. Huntington County is a prime example – 441

parents chose other public schools in the fall of 2021. (Sources: 2010 and 2020 Censuses, Hoosier by the Numbers and IDOE official websites.)

MSD is the third largest employer in Wabash County according to Hoosiers by the Numbers. (Source: in.gov website). Our funds are \$19 million in the black after rebounding from financial stresses less than five years ago. Our graduation rates and test scores, numbers for White's taken out of data, are among the best of surrounding districts. If MSD were a business, outcomes and financial stability taken into account, what would the business leaders who signed this letter see as the smartest business decision for the MSD stakeholders? A competent business person would not pursue a merger. In April of 2019, when Wabash City Schools (WCS) voted to proceed with \$30 million worth of improvements over the next 20 years, much of it related to athletics, where were these business leaders? Did they not question if this decision was best for the academic and financial future of the residents of the city of Wabash and Wabash County? Did they ask that a diverse group of Wabash County leaders and citizens convene to review the options available and if the \$30 million plan was the best vision and pathway for moving forward? As experienced business professionals, did they question if that was a wise business decision for a district already struggling financially with no relief in sight? If they did, they did not advertise their opinion nor did they canvas the county to garner support for their opposition to the WCS plan. One could assume they agreed with the decision for a financially-strapped district to borrow \$30 million.

After several years of strategic planning public work sessions, the elected board of MSD moved to ask the MSD voters to invest in a new high school to better serve our students now and in the future. MSD voters will make that decision. The proposed forward-thinking plan certainly appears to meet the goals and desires for growth that Grow Wabash County and the civic and business leaders stressed in their open letter. That is, unless there are underlying reasons why they would oppose growth on the edge of town which could only help promote Wabash County to potential residents and businesses.

If you are hearing the noise from the echo chamber, try stepping away and thinking it through. When will the economic development group, Grow Wabash County, funded by all of the county, come forward to support a successful and fiscally sound corporation's bold proposal for the future of MSD students and Wabash County? It is growth.

Brian and Cheryl Ridgeway Wabash



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If you would like to see a study group explore a county-wide vision and path forward for a competitive K through 12 educational offering, please email us at wabashcountyeducation@gmail.com to add your name to this letter.

July 20, 2022

A Joint Open Letter to:

- Wabash County Commissioners
- Members of the Wabash County Council
- Members of the Councils of LaFontaine, Lagro, North Manchester, Roann, and Wabash
- Mayor of Wabash
- Members of MSD of Wabash County School Board, Manchester Community Schools Board, and Wabash City Schools Board of Education

We join together as civic and business leaders to underscore the importance of providing a competitive K through 12 public education for all of the current and future students of Wabash County. Our current and future students deserve nothing less. Further, the availability of top tier public education as compared to other Indiana communities is critical for population growth, attracting new residents and employees to Wabash County, and to entice existing and new employers to fully invest in Wabash County. **We ask that Wabash County’s officials support a group of Wabash County leaders and citizens who will develop a vision and pathway for a county-wide solution to a competitive and sustainable K through 12 educational offering for Wabash County.**

* * *

It is no secret that Wabash County has a fundamental challenge in reversing the population decline of Wabash County.

Wabash County’s population has continued to decline even though the 11-county region of Northeast Indiana (of which Wabash County is a part) has reversed that decline and has been posting solid population gains over the last several years. Even more concerning is that Wabash County is the only county in the 11-county region that has declined in population since 1990. While our decline in Wabash County is not predominantly a result of our K through 12 public education offerings, education is a key component of reversing this decline along with housing and the availability of professional and high paying jobs.

The Comprehensive Plan For Wabash County and the signers’ firsthand experience confirm that strong local schools as compared to neighboring communities are a major factor when families are deciding where to live.

The Community Foundation of Wabash County and Grow Wabash County have called on all citizens of Wabash County to address the steady and alarming decline in population that threatens a competitive 21st century education, industry, competitive wages and incomes, job growth, economic development, the availability of retail and professional services and the value of our homes. A coalition of leaders from all sectors—industry, education, government, philanthropy and others—joined an unprecedented countywide collaboration to develop and implement a plan for growth, opportunity and prosperity of the entire county. More than 200 citizens submitted over 1,000 ideas for growth. An overwhelming message received in

developing the comprehensive plan was that the strength of local schools is a major factor when families are deciding where to live. Focus group participants without exception voted *well-funded competitive K-12 education as the top priority for growth*.

Our county is rightfully proud that we are an amenity rich county with destination amenities like great downtowns (including a new cultural district), The Honeywell Center and its other venues (including the Eagles Theatre), our rivers, reservoirs and a growing trail system, the new Parkview Wabash Hospital, the Wabash County Y, Manchester University, Strauss Peabody Aquatic Center, Charley Creek Inn and many more. Even with these amenities, we have not reversed population decline.

Having a competitive K through 12 educational program that is one of the best in the region and all of Indiana will ensure that Wabash County becomes the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. We also believe that the availability of strong local schools is a major factor in attracting new businesses, enticing existing businesses to increase their investment and increasing the number of high wage jobs. And as “success breeds success,” Wabash County could build on its existing strengths, educational and otherwise, and become a preferred location for teachers and administrators.

We applaud the work of MSD School Board and its team for recognizing that bold changes are needed in our county today and for the future.

The MSD School Board and its team have reported that their current enrollments have resulted in small class sizes that do not provide students the program offerings they need or desire or the scheduling flexibility to take advantage of existing offerings. In addition, they have demonstrated that the current footprint and population of their high schools does not allow for sufficient AP or dual credit courses, or provide adequate flexibility with Heartland Career Center, internships or other offerings not housed in their two high schools. Transporting teachers or students to multiple high schools and virtual learning have not been effective solutions and, most importantly, do not provide the education our students need and want.

It is time for our county to put our students first and to provide for the depth, breadth and sustainability of our K through 12 educational offerings on a county-wide basis. Doing so will be fundamental to and a catalyst for reversing our population decline.

Wabash County must commit itself to a pathway that will ensure that we have a competitive K through 12 educational offering that is as strong as any other public-school program in Indiana or elsewhere. It will encompass a program not only for those students who are college bound but also those students who aspire to a different pathway like advanced manufacturing or logistics. These offerings will encompass AP courses, dual credit offerings, arts and music and a broad and competitive offering of athletic programs and facilities.

Now, we ask our local leaders to be part of a historic, wholistic long-term solution to ensure the future of education and growth in Wabash County.

Your leadership matters.

We believe that the time has come to develop a comprehensive K through 12 educational program on a county-wide basis. A county-wide focus is needed to assure that we have scale (now and in the future) sufficient to provide the offerings our students need and deserve.

We have not concluded that there is one preferred way to accomplish this goal. Rather, we strongly believe that it is time that we view this challenge as a county-wide challenge and opportunity to align on a pathway for our county’s long-term success. And, most importantly, it is the right thing to do for our students to have the education they need and deserve.

Our request is not complicated. We ask that you support a diverse group of Wabash County leaders and citizens who will thoughtfully and carefully review the options available to us and develop a vision and pathway for moving forward a county-wide approach to the development of a competitive K through 12 educational offering for Wabash County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Richard Church, Parkview Health
Marilyn Custer-Mitchell, Waypoint
Dan Ford, Community Volunteer
Steve Ford, Business Leader
John Forrester, Business Leader
Greg Garner, Community Volunteer
Lisa Gilman, Redemption Development
Dave Haist, Community Volunteer
Howard Halderman, Halderman Companies
Bob Krouse, MPS Egg Farms
David McFadden, Manchester University
Tod Minnich, Honeywell Foundation
Jack Wiley, Employee Centricity LLC

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Phyllis Downey, Retired MSD teacher and Community Volunteer | Jay Driskill, Community Volunteer | Jim McCann, Community Volunteer |
| JD Downey, Downey Farms | Kay Denger, Community Volunteer | Ryan Evans, Educator |
| Amy Sullivan, Edward Jones | Allen Miracle, North Manchester Town Council | Nicole Howard, Business Leader |
| Patrick Sullivan, Business Leader | Michael Rigney, Community Volunteer | Tyler Olson, Community Volunteer |
| Ron Evans, Josiah White’s | Michael Beauchamp, Business Leader | Susan Beckett, Community Volunteer |
| Tom Dale, North Manchester Town Council | Candie Cooper, Community Volunteer | Paula Garner, Community Volunteer |
| Mayor Scott Long, City of Wabash | William Corso, Community Volunteer | Laura Rager, North Manchester Town Council |
| Rusty Coulter-Kern, Educator | Erika Ford, Community Volunteer | Kevin Trotter, Community Volunteer |
| Adam Stakeman, Community Volunteer | Richard Halderman, Business Leader | Philip Keefer, Community Volunteer |
| Wayne Denger, Business Leader | Kelli Halderman, Community Volunteer | Kristen Church, Community Volunteer |
| Dan Risk, Educator | Susan Jones, Community Volunteer | Jessica Keffaber, Honeywell Foundation |
| Robert Halderman, Business Leader | Pete Jones, Community Volunteer | V. Anne Garver Curless, Community Volunteer |
| Terry Brewer, Wabash City Council | Mark Guenin, Business Leader | Melissa Ford-Kalbfell, Community Volunteer |
| Bill Konyha, Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana | Angie Beauchamp, Community Volunteer | Kristi Unger, Educator |
| James Kirk, North Manchester Chief of Police | Lori Franzen, Educator | Cynthia Johnson, Educator |
| Haley Beauchamp Renbarger, Community Volunteer | Joel Stein, Business Leader | Chris Shanks, Business Leader |
| Lori Overmeyer, Educator | Laurence M. Pease, Community Volunteer | Cathy Gatchel, Honeywell Foundation |
| Ty Nolan Renbarger, Business Leader | Christine Flohr, Nonprofit Leader | Robert Beauchamp, Business Leader |
| Madeline Spring, Undaunted Leadership | Aaron McCoart, Community Volunteer | Mike Williams, Community Volunteer |
| Jim Bain, Community Volunteer | Beth Squires, Community Volunteer | Dave Gleason, Spirit Wear |
| Mary Anne Bain, Community Volunteer | Jennifer Shira, Community Volunteer | Susan Keefer, Community Volunteer |
| Margaret “Boo” Salb, Community Volunteer | Michael Shira, Community Volunteer | Scott Dinkins, Business Leader |
| Pat Brubaker, Community Volunteer | Jim Haist, Community Volunteer | Jared Cordes, J & E Cordes Farms Inc. |
| Mistie L. Potts, Ph.D., Educator | Nicole Sears, Educator | Sara Widner, Community Volunteer |
| Rose Wenrich MD, Community Volunteer | Jim Sears, Community Volunteer | Terri Denney, Educator |
| Gary Miller, Community Volunteer | Gary Montel, North Manchester Town Council | Richard Tucker, Community Volunteer |
| James Smith, North Manchester Town Council | Gayle Forrester, Community Volunteer | Joy E. Curless, Community Volunteer |
| Lori L. Miller, Community Volunteer | Sandy Haist, Community Volunteer | Lewis K. Curless, Community Volunteer |
| Lisa Sweet-Kinsey, Community Volunteer | Karen Newhouse, Community Volunteer | Diana Showalter, Educator |
| Nichole Harner, Educator | Douglas Konkle, Community Volunteer | Tammy Ford, Community Volunteer |
| Jim Widner, Community Volunteer | Linda Konkle, Community Volunteer | Gary Fadil, Community Volunteer |
| Rhonda Hipskind, Community Volunteer | Rick Rogers, Community Volunteer | Beverly Vanderpool, Community Volunteer |
| Parker Beauchamp, Business Leader | Shelby Rogers, Community Volunteer | Jon Vanderpool, Community Volunteer |
| Amanda Lopez, Business Leader | Tom Frank, Community Volunteer | Mark Nevil, Educator |
| Clint Kugler, Nonprofit Leader | Nancy Frank, Community Volunteer | Jean Fleck, Community Volunteer |
| Amy Ford, Community Volunteer | Hannah Bender, Community Volunteer | Marcie L. Coulter-Kern, Educator |
| Bob Lundquist, Business Leader | Teresa Galley, Wabash County Museum | Judd A. Case, Educator |
| Mark Ford, Business Leader | Shirley Walter, Community Volunteer | Megan E. Sarber, Community Volunteer |
| Matt Jasen, Business Leader | Todd Schindler, Flight Medic | Kelsey-Jo Kessie, Educator |
| Paula Opheim, Community Volunteer | Karyl Kirk, Educator | Jan Roland, Wabash City Council |
| Janet Halderman, Educator | Nick Driskill, Business Leader | Steve Gatchel, Community Volunteer |
| Dave Mann, Community Volunteer | Jeni Taylor, Educator | Steve Brubaker, Community Volunteer |
| Bob Mason, Business Leader | Andrea Kaufman, Community Volunteer | Linda Van Voorhis, Community Volunteer |
| Whitney Myers, Community Volunteer | Vaughn Peebles, Community Volunteer | Linda Gilpin, Community Volunteer |
| Judy Risk, Educator | Nancy J. Jacoby-Barrows, Community Volunteer | Susan Vanlandingham, Educator |
| | Marie Coffman, Community Volunteer | Robert Vanlandingham, Former Mayor of City of Wabash |